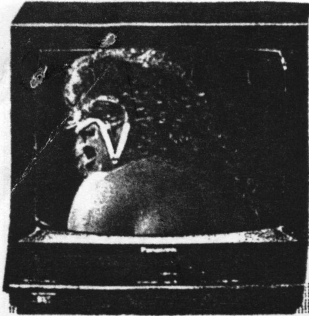




MATWATCH

213 Pine Hills Ave. Auburn AL 36830



APRIL 30-MAY 6

VOL. 2, NO. 44

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

FLAIR RETAINS BELT AT MEADOWLANDS

EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ---Ric Flair held onto the NWA world heavyweight championship with a disqualification loss to Lex Luger Thursday night at Byrne Arena in the Meadowlands.

The title match headlined the NWA's first card in the arena since a joint show with the AWA in late 1985. Attendance was estimated at 8,500 (see PINFALL PROFILE, page 2).

At TBS' WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP taping Tuesday in Atlanta, Luger said he if does not win the belt from Flair at the May 19 CAPITOL COMBAT show "I will never wrestle for the world title again."

HENNIG-SANTANA IN FINALS FOR WWF I-C TITLE

AUSTIN TX---Curt Hennig and Tito Santana met for the WWF Intercontinental championship here at TV tapings Monday night.

Other newsletters have published the result but MATWATCH policy is not to reveal the finish until after the match's TV airing, except in special instances.

The Hennig-Santana finale, however, was taped before the quarterfinal and semifinal matches, which were held the following evening.

FIVE RECEIVE NWA TRYOUTS DURING WEEK

ATLANTA---Five new wrestlers have auditioned for the NWA in the past week with Southern Boys Tracy Smothers and Steve Armstrong apparently hired. The two gained berths in both TBS and syndication tapings in Marietta and Atlanta.

Former Canadian North American champ Larry Cameron, USWA regular Brian Lee and ex-Calgary performer Steve DiSalvo are also seeking spots.

According to reports from the tapings, Cameron---as a face---drew a big crowd response, Lee a marginal reaction and DiSalvo poor. Insiders say DiSalvo, rejected at a recent WWF audition, will not be offered a contract. The promotion is also concerned about the Southern Boys gimmick being "too regional."

Bits and Pieces

ROBOCOP: CALM DOWN; BOOKERS: 5 TOO MANY

Bits and pieces from your friendly neighborhood wrestling critic while we ponder the psychic flaw which makes one want to helm a TV news department:

***THE ROBOCOP AFFAIR: I've heard all the gripes and I'm telling you, they're groundless. Oh, a robot is going to ruin the business by being a bodyguard for a wrestler. Oh, it's another NWA sellout to gimmickry. Oh, why do they have to copy Vince?



Steve

Beverly

First off, for all intents and purposes, the NWA still is a hard-core-fan alliance. That accounts for roughly 15-20% of the buying public. Folks, to steal a thought from Ron Lemieux in a recent ARENA REPORT, the senior circuit is never going to catch its flashy contemporary in our immediate life-

time. But to reach out for larger market shares, it must try offbeat ideas which have a chance of attracting crossover audiences, particularly kids.

Eighteen months ago, when Ted Turner bought the NWA, I suggested it should take the position no idea is too outrageous to try, even if it fails. I'd rather see a group gamble with a controversial gimmick than feed us the same pablum that doesn't sell. Would you rather see another screw-job ending to a Flair-Luger match? The ROBOCOP tie-in aligns the NWA with a forthcoming hot summer movie which will draw young demographics and I'll guarantee you will have more people talking than another Tommy Rich-Joel Deaton rematch. Plus, the tightly-edited promo spot portrays Sting in a much more authoritative fashion, from this view, than any interview Steve Borden has ever offered and hardly presents Sting in a subordinate light.

Gang, it's like many of the perspectives we've aired for two years. It is a different day. Whether you want the NWA to change (heaven knows, I'm still one of the world's stingiest purists), it must if it is to narrow its distant second in a market as far from the top as Miami is from Portland.

***WHO'S THE BOOKER HERE?: A short sidelight from the Tuesday night WCW tapings and if there's any more supporting evidence that this promotion needs to hire a single booker to call the shots, this is it. According to reliable reports, one set of wrestlers was given six different sets of instructions as to their finish by six different bookers (or road agents).

When the wrestlers, confused enough, asked which finish they were to use, each of the six bookers insisted on his own and all were different. When asked which booker was the one in charge, each one separately claimed he was. The performers finally had to resort to determining while in the ring which ending to use.

Wrestlers from other promotions and even rival promoters are now openly commenting what a joke the situation is, particularly when they're hearing it daily from their friends working for WCW. I am in firm agreement that with nine weekly shows (when WGN/WCW begins) to develop, the TV producing load has to be shared. But this promotion sorely needs one central creative focus, even if it's wrong. How long would you survive in your work if you had six different bosses giving you six different sets of orders? As one NWA insider said last week, "Things like this are enough to convince me why the Japanese kick the tar out of us in business---and in wrestling."

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MATWATCH ON HIATUS

To assist me in having adequate time to coordinate my transition to my new job at WBBJ-TV in Jackson TN, MATWATCH will NOT PUBLISH the next two weeks. If your subscription order ends either May 7 or 14, your closing date will be advanced to either May 21 or 28. Please send subscription orders to: 213 PINE HILLS AVE., AUBURN AL 36830, until we establish a permanent address. Our return issue will detail the CAPITOL COMBAT pay-per-view and feature a comprehensive offering of reader mail over the past month.

Pinfail Profile

**MEADOWLANDS: NO
BAD EFFORT FOR NWA**

"It wasn't great but it was pretty good."

That's the view of a top wrestling journalist on the NWA return to the New Jersey Meadowlands and reflects a consensus of MATWATCHers in attendance.

The estimated 8,500 crowd matched WCW's Jim Herd's prediction. "We'd be happier with 10,000 but we can live with it," Herd told me a week before the show.

Said a leading wrestling writer in East Rutherford: "With the WWF drawing 3,000-5,000 for several shows here recently, if the NWA doesn't consider this a significant success, I don't know where their head is."

When the first ring music failed during the Mark Callous-Mike Rotunda intros, some saw visions of the old Jim Crockett fiascos in Nassau Coliseum. But it was only a minor setback.

Key notes: 1) Road Warrior Hawk failed a blood pressure test and was scratched. So Warriors-DOOM filtered into a weaker Animal-Butch Reed affair. But ringsiders say Hawk's announcement to the fans created heat; 2) Ricky Morton didn't show. Fans were told his plane was rerouted; 3) The Meadowlands was nearly as tough as Philadelphia on the NWA faces, particularly the "pretty boys." A leading insider told MATWATCH Tom Zenk, who teamed with Brian Pillman and subbed for Morton, took enormous barbs from the crowd and led to a semi-Philly babyface reax for the Freebirds.

The Luger-Flair main event used the same finish of Ole bashing Lex with WOMAN's shoe and when Lex kicked out, Ole is caught running in, creating a DQ win for Lex. The match brought a tremendous sustained reaction and the consensus has few leaving disappointed. The only real gripe was a feeling the post-match between Luger and the Horsemen should have run longer.

Overall, it was the standard NWA show currently traveling the circuit. And that's probably not bad. Considering how Crockett sent a blowout show to Nassau on the eve of STARRCADE '87 and could never live up to the original, this may have been the more prudent move: sending the good show now and building to a stronger one---if a return date can be had.

OTHER VOICES

By Dr. MIKE LANO
Guest Columnist

TED TURNER BANS THE F-WORD: the article of the same title (3/19/90) in the SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE that Turner banned use of the word "foreign" from his on-air personalities at CNN, HEADLINE NEWS, TNT and WTBS, replacing it with the euphemistic word "international" to promote his GOODWILL GAMES and feel-good optimism. Oh, if only that applied to the NWA's narrow-minded heel display of Keiiji Muto and other racial stereotypes.

Sure. When Muta wanted out, Herd promised him a babyface turn (and ROOS contract) but by this time, Muta was firmly convinced (thanks to Gary Hart) that he could never sell or be marketed as a babyface. If he ever puts in an appearance for George Scott's "lil promo," I'm sure he'll continue as a heel. With all the glasnost and cautious camaraderie amongst Americans and Soviets, Titan has already had Volkoff and Zhukov denounce Gorbachev and continue their heelish ways. Slick continues to pimp his fake "Afrikain." Koko continues to be a dancin'-singin' good ol' Uncle Tom. The Ornamental Express push the Japanese as sneaky cheaters who only have respect for Fuji-san. Practically every ethnic type displayed by Titan (and to a lesser extent the NWA) are narrow-minded and have insulted many of us for over 45 years.

I know that with just a little Eddie Gilbert creativity, we can finally put this crap behind us. Did we ever really analyze just how on the mark the old Mid-South and UWF with Watts and Gilbert did little to offend (okay, the Angel of Death was a minor character)? Just stuck-up heels and All-American heroes with few (Savannah Jack was kind of pandering, as well as Angel) offensive racial types.

Joe Pedicino says all promotions need easily-identifiable types for even the densest mark. With a little ingenuity, we can take Turner's shortsightedness and turn it into a much more mentally-stimulating program (a la the new David Lynch soap opera TWIN PEAKS that critics rave will forever change nighttime TV with subtle characters).

Stereotypes acceptable: DiBiase, Savage (at times), Eddie Gilbert as heel, Terry Taylor at his heel best, Curt Hennig, Lex Luger, Ric Flair (without WOMAN). How about characters in some of the professions most people hate to go to: the dentist, the tax man, the accountant, the big I.R.S. man, the veterinarian, the podiatrist. The dreaded chiropractor, the deadly proctologist. See here: we've transferred our misguided hatred of races of humans to silly professions---which is a tad less ugly.

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(WWF/NBC) - [SNME] WWF TITLE: Ultimate Warrior d. Haku; Hulk Hogan d. Curt Hennig; Other matches after deadline. NO RATING OFFERED.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Rick Martel d. Paul Roma; Hennig d. Mario Mancini; WWF TAG TITLE: Demolition d. Bolsheviks; Barbarian d. Jim McPherson; Al Perez d. Conquistador I; Rhythm & Blues d. Mike Frear/George Skoaland; BRO. LUV: Jim Duggan guests; (From WM6) Orient Express-Rockers; Pat Tanaka d. Marty Jannetty w. Fuji's cane but Sean Michaels cleans house after. RESTHOLD.

(CHICAGO CHAMPIONSHIP) - [2 Wks. Ago]: Tony DeVito d. Ray Fitzgerald; Sam Reynolds d. Andrei Rostov; Terry Scholl draw vs. Jeff Barr; Scott Reynolds d. Dean White. BOMB-PLUS. [Last Week]: Holy Warrior/Nemesis Enforcer d. Tony DeVito/Ja Buta; The Hammer double DQ vs. Mr. Smith. BOMB-PLUS.

(WINDY CITY) - [2 Wks. Ago]: Sonny Rogers d. Untouchable Buster but Turbo has to save Rogers from doubleteam by Unts; K.C. Knight d. Dream Warrior Bruce; WC TITLE: Frank (The Tank) Nelson d. Roger Clarke. BOMB. [Last Week]: WINDY CITY WOMEN'S TITLE: Ondi Austin double DQ vs. Debbie Combs, Austin keeps belt; ARM-WRESTLING: Rich Lepke d. Capt. Fantastic. BOMB-PLUS.

(LPWA) - [2 Wks. Ago]: LPWA TAG TITLE - Heidi Lee Morgan/Misty Blue Simmes d. Nasty Girls by countout; Tina Moretti d. Judy Martin; KEN'S KORNER: Recap of Sheik's turn on Desert Rose (Shelley Francis). RESTHOLD-PLUS. [This Week]: Candi Divine d. Leah Osaka; Magnificent Mimi d. Jan Flame by DQ; LPWA TITLE: Susan Sexton d. Linda Street; ANGLE: Sheik al-Feid blames Ken Resnick for his problems with Desert Rose & Resnick threatens to pop Sheik in the mouth; KEN'S KORNER: Million \$ Woman. DRAW-PLUS.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - Villano I/VI/V d. Mascara Sagrada/Popitekus/Kung Fu 2-3 falls; Atlantis/Xavier Cruz/Angel Azteca d. Satánico/Texano/El Dandy 2-3; NWA LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE: Lizmark d. Ulises to win belt. POWERSLAM-PLUS!!!

(USWA) - J.J. Funk d. Sheik Braddock; Gary Young vs. Jimmy James; Kevin Von Erich d. Terrence Garvin; Bill Dundee d. Steve Austin by DQ; Kerry Von Erich double countout vs. Billy Joe Travis. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(AWA) - Sgt. Slaughter d. W.T. Jones; Kokina Maximus d. Pete Sanchez; AWA TITLE (SUPER CLASH IV): Larry Zbyszko d. Mr. Saito to regain belt; TEAM CHALLENGE: Jake Milliman d. Todd Becker/Rocky Stone in battle royal. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WORLD WIDE]: Road Warriors d. Royal Family but DOOM hits ring after & Teddy Long nails Paul Ellering; (From WCW) Flair-Luger-Horseman again; Mark Callous d. Manuel Villalobos; Cactus Jack d. Rick Ryder; (RECAPS) DOOM-Steiners saga; Rock & Roll Express-Freebirds saga; R & R Ex d. Galaxians but Freebirds run in with straps on R&R. RESTHOLD.

[NWA PRO]: Callous d. Dino Hernandez; (From WCW) Flair-Luger-Horsemen; Brian Pillman/Tom Zenk d. Pat Rose/Cajun Predator; Villalobos/Galaxian Davis d. Steiners; SST d. Rick Fargo/Nasty Ned Brady; (RECAP) Sullivan-Bigelow-Cactus vs. Abdullah-Norman-Rotunda; (REMATCH) Abby/Norm/Rotunda d. Sullivan/Bigelow/Cactus. RESTHOLD.

(PRO WRESTLING 1990) - Billy Black d. Bob Farley; ANGLE: Bugman Michaels sprays at ringside & he and Black get into it; Georgia Power d. Mack (Truck) Waters/Moose Mahoney; Invader double countout vs. Solid Gold; INTL. MATCH: Mr. Pogo/Kendo Nagasaki win; 2-MINUTE MATCH: Bambi vs. Peggy Lee Leathers goes time limits so Bambi wins; ANGLE: Dixie Mafia scolds Peggy Lee for not beating Bambi; CLASSIC: Miguel Perez/Antonino Rocca d. Eddie & Dr. Jerry Graham; Nick Busich d. Lightning by DQ when Thunder runs in but when Terminator joins Busich, ref declares tag match; Busich/Terminator d. Thunder & Lightning by DQ when Dixie Mafia run in but Georgia Power comes out and 8-way brawl starts. DRAW.

(ICW) - Hurricane/Cyclone d. Wild Bunch; Chris Michaels d. Destroyer; Vic Steamboat d. Southern Jet; Super Duper Mario d. Mike Fortune; Frankie Angel d. Joe Cruel; Dynamic Duo d. Equalizers. RESTHOLD.

(CWA/SYND.) - Jeff Jarrett d. Jeff Gaylord; Sweet Daddy Falfone d. Tom Hall; Jerry Lawler d. Mike Jordan; Chris Champion d. Keith Roberson; OTHER WINNERS: Southern Rockers, Dirty White Boys. RESTHOLD.

(CNWA) - Trevor Remus d. J.T. Stringer; Johnny Smith d. Randy Taylor; Diamond Timothy Flowers d. Kevin Rosney; TORNADO MATCH: Great Gama/Akam Singh d. Duke Myers/Goldie Rogers; ANGLE: Smith tries to reunite with Gama as tag team. Gama refuses. The Weasel slaps Gama for refusing, Gama retaliates & Smith then jumps Gama. RESTHOLD.

(PORTLAND) - [PACIFIC NW TOURNEY]: (QUARTERFINALS) Brian Adams d. Curtis Thompson by DQ (over-top); Beetlejuice d. Big Beetlejuice (forfeit) when Big BJ hurts knee; Grappler d. Equalizer (forfeit). Grap throws milk/Cheerios in ring & Eq throws in trash can. Eq withdraws after 15 seconds; Larry Oliver d. Billy Jack Haynes by DQ; (SEMIFINALS) Ricky Santana draw vs. Beetlejuice (both eliminated); Oliver d. Grappler by DQ; (FINALS) Adams d. Oliver for title when Brian hits Oliver w. kendo stick during ref bump but Larry beats Adams with it after until Haynes runs in sticks Oliver & Sandy Barr before Rip Oliver saves; ANGLES: 1) Tailor-Made Medina comes after B'juice and he shoos her away, so she slaps him; 2) Rip Oliver comes after Haynes w. iron bar and faces hold him, so Barry Owen kicks Rip out of tourney; FIESTA GARDEN: Tailor-Made challenges any female to outpose her next week. DRAW.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Kingfish Rhodes d. Mike Williams; Hennig d. Mancini; Jim Duggan d. Dale Wolfe; R & B d. Skoaland/Frear; Barbarian d. McPherson; Roma d. Buddy Rose; Other winners: Rockers. RESTHOLD. [SUPERSTARS]: Hart Foundation d. Whatley/Bob Bradley; Dino Bravo d. Mitch Ryder; UPDATE: Bad News Brown gets birthday "snake"; I-C TOURNEY: Tito Santana d. Akeem by countout; Martel d. Roma; Earthquake Tenta d. Paul Perez; BRO. LUV: Hulk Hogan; Tugboat d. Joe Champ. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

TV
TEMPO

Apr. 23-29

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(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Bigelow d. Drake; WNN: Sting says he'll show up at CAPITOL COMBAT; (Replay) Rick Steiner vs. Butch Reed double countout; (HANDICAP) Callous d. Rose/Cook; LOUISVILLE SLUG- GER: Cornette w. Freebirds; Scott Steiner double DQ vs. Ron Simmons. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[WCW]: (From NWA PRO) Rick Steiner d. Wrecking Crew Bloom; Pillman/Zenk d. Drake/Terry Bronsen; Abdullah double DQ vs. Bigelow when both men's partners run in; M Ex d. Rockin' Rebel/Ryder; (From PH) M Ex d. Pillman/Zenk w. Corny's racket; (Replay) Flair-Luger-Horsemen; RESTHOLD.

[MAIN EVENT]: M Ex/Freebirds d. Dynamic Dudes/R & R Ex. NO RATING OFFERED.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Jesse Ventura/Vince McMahon, WWF, on Demolition vs. Harts: (J) "I'll be broadcasting that match. Will you?" (V) "Are you trying to tell me something?" (JV) "Depends on if they want the 'A' or the 'B' broadcast team." (V Mc) "I thought you might be referring to what happened to Brent Musberger." 2. Peter Fitznicely, CHICAGO: "Lake Inferior is the only place where you have to chew the air before you inhale." 3. Freddie Blassie, WWF: "The Bushwackers think the pyramids are a natural rock formation." 4. Jim Cornette, WCW, on Bigelow & Abby: "Gary Cappetta wouldn't even make these guys a good arm or a leg." 5. Mr. Saito, AWA: "I like American food. I like American clothes. But I hate American referee." 6. Bobby Heenan, PTW: "Rude's more ready than Eveready." 7. Cornette, WCW: "Lord Beaverbrook Ranch? Is that one of Lord Littlebrook's illegitimate relatives?" 8. Blassie, PTW: "Martel made Roma look like a question mark in that Boston crab." 9. Heenan, PTW, on how Tito Santana entered I-C tourney: "Last winter, he shoveled the snow off of Tunney's front walk." 10. Fitznicely, CHICAGO, on Gentleman James Fontaine: "He detests finger indentations and no one knows where the hands of you Chicagoans have been."

11. Don Coss, PORTLAND: "The Equalizer's pilot light is running low." 12. Sgt. Slaughter, LPWA, to Ken Resnick on his flap w. Sheik over Shelley Francis: "I trained her. I thought for a second I was gonna have to train you." 13. Clyde, CHICAGO: "If you're gonna play doctor, you better have the scalpel." 14. Scott Thomas, WINDY CITY: "Debbie and Cora Combs have on enough glitter to light up Las Vegas." 15. Honeybee, WINDY CITY, on Sheik Saleed: "You heard it here, folks. Whatever it was he said." 16. Vince/Jesse, WWF: (V) "I thought you were going to get me some of that ARROGANCE." (J) "I haven't seen any money yet." 17. Frank Sisson, CNWA, to Bulldog Bob Brown, CNWA: "I thought we got rid of you last week, now I have to SIT with you!" 18. Brown/Sisson, CNWA: (BBB) "The Weasel's not cheap like you or Ed Whalen. He takes me out for dinner & drinks." (FS) "You taught me how to have short arms and deep pockets because you don't know how to pick up the check." 20. Sisson/Brown, CNWA: (FS) "I have to admit for your age, sir, you're in great shape." (BBB) "I don't know what you're talking about, age, when you're only in your late forties." 21. Hulk Hogan, SUPERSTARS: "We have felt the Earthquake and it was only a 7.2 on the Richter scale of Hulkamania."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Larry Zbyszko, AWA: "Nick Bockwinkel has integrity. But he can keep his integrity because I am now the Holy Grail." 2. Brown, CNWA: "It'll be an ex-

citing show. Ed Whalen's not here." 3. Brown, CNWA, during Gama/Smith angle: "I want to see some REAL violence, something we know Ed Whalen's against."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Hogan, SUPERSTARS: "Do I look tattered & torn, Brother LUV?" 2. Count Billy Varga, SLAMMERS GYM: "Would you guys boo me one more time?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. TATTOOHEAD (Norman on Bigelow). 2. RAZORBACK REDNECKS (Cornette on Arkansas fans). 3. THE WALLY COX OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING (Ross on Gary Juster).

BEST PICTURES - 1. USWA, Woman presenting Skandor Akbar an "Akbar doll." 2. USWA, Elderly ladies holding up AKBAR'S FAN CLUB sign. 3. WWF, Hogan greeting crowd on SUPERSTARS. 4. WCW, Bigelow going after Rotunda.

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Ken Resnick, LPWA: "...Katie bar the door." 2. Resnick, LPWA: "...more than meets the eye." 3. Sean Mooney, WWF: "...only time will tell." 4. Thomas, WINDY CITY: "...chip off the old block."

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. Brown, CNWA: DESIRERRIE Peterson. 2. Brown, CNWA: "Timothy Diamond Flowers," not Diamond Timothy.

BOO AWARDS - 1. PORTLAND, for all the forfeits in the Pacific NW tourney. 2. Joe Pedicino, PW'90, for not knowing names of losers in international match.

CORRECTION

In last week's page one column, we erroneously credited promoter Joel Goodhart with organizing the SAVE THE PUNKER campaign. The effort was actually started by INSIDE THE SQUARED CIRCLE host Rich Daniel. Our apologies to both men.

WCW RIPS WOMEN 4-1 ON "FEUD"

LOS ANGELES---Five WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING stars took four of five games from former POWW women on a CBS FAMILY FEUD taping last Friday.

The games, to air May 7-11 at 10 a.m. on CBS, featured the Steiner Brothers, Sting, Lex Luger and Road Warrior Animal against the Farmer's Daughter, Godiva, Daisy, Hollywood and Jackie Stallone.

MATWATCHers present said the NWA wrestlers had great fun playing; however, only won the \$10,000 FAST MONEY round once. Twice, Sting scored 140 points and 136 on his own but Rick Steiner and Animal could not push the total over the winning 200 mark.

When host Ray Combs asked, "Name something hard to do when your hair is long," Animal answered, "Go for a walk." Later, Animal was asked: "Name an actress past or present known for her figure." ANIMAL: "Brigitte Nielsen. Sorry to talk about your ex-relative, Jack," referring to Sylvester Stallone's ex-wife.

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COMBAT PRELUDE: WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING is taped all the way through the May 19 hour prelim to CAPITOL COMBAT. People at the Center Stage taping last Tuesday tell us with the exception of the 19th show, at least a quality angle and one or two good matches were in each show.

VICIOUS SID: One surprise was the introduction (on the May 12 show) of Sid Vicious as the "4th" Horseman. He was in full double-breasted suit and was termed the "equalizer" for Robocop. (COMMENTARY: It makes the Horsemen "invincible" but Sid doesn't need to be diluted in a "gang." Vicious needs to be a major star on his own.)

COMING ATTRACTIONS: Among the matches you can expect to see on the May WCW editions: Yet another Tommy Rich-Joel Deaton affair and a key angle involving Jim Cornette and the Freebirds (May 5); the Southern Boys (debut) vs. Kevin Sullivan/Cactus Jack, along with Samu-Eddie Gilbert (May 12); and a six-man: Johnny Ace/Gilbert/Rich vs. Samu/Dutch Mantel/Lee Scott in one where you'll enjoy the finish.

OUTLAW BLUES: Joel Deaton walked out on the NWA after the WCW taping. He, not Lee Scott, was to be in the May 19 6-man tag. The finish was to be a melee as the show ended with Deaton to be pinned ONLY after the tape stopped rolling, simply for the Center Stage fans. Deaton walked out on \$300 a night for 22 dates in May because, insiders say, he was afraid "it might get back to Japan."

IN SYNDICATION: I think these will be coming up Saturday, or if not---the following week: Ric Flair-Lex Luger in one where the Horsemen and Sting all are involved (both shows). When Sting came out for the WORLD WIDE taping, I'm told he was walking great and only had an ace bandage on the knee.

BEHIND THE MIKE: Paul E. Dangerously definitely moves onto the POWER HOUR with Jim Ross beginning May 11. Teddy Long joins Tony Schiavone on WORLD WIDE and Kevin Sullivan was used on the syndie MAIN EVENT with Bob Caudle. Gordon Solie will likely move to an "events center" role and continue doing WNN and possibly an upcoming "legends" segment.

MAY ON TBS: WCW will have one-hour shows all but May 12, which is the usual 2-hour. POWER HOUR times (all Eastern and approximate) are 10:15 (except 11:15 on the 11th). On the May 4 PH, Brian Pillman/Tom Zenk face Samu/Deaton. NWA MAIN EVENT on the 6th: Steiners-Wrecking Crew in a last tango.

BLUES CONTINUE: On the heels of that weak, weak Detroit house, Titan continues to plug along at the gate, though the Texas swing has been reasonably successful. Providence had a bad house last week and St. Louis was in the tubes but San Antonio sold out. For the SNME and I-C championship taping at the University of Texas, the house was full but more than half (only 8,000 paid) were giveaways.

BUY-RATE BLUES: MULTICHANNEL NEWS reported certain regional buy-rates for WRESTLEMANIA VI below 2%. Most of the South and portions of the Midwest dipped below the 2 mark with New Orleans and Jacksonville, Fla., tallying under 1%.

GIMPY DUSTY: Dusty Rhodes reportedly has had surgery on either his foot, toe or leg and will be out a while. Jake

MATWATCHING

Roberts and possibly Roddy Piper will sub in some of Dusty's skedded bouts against Randy Savage.

RODDY'S TODDY: Roddy and the front office are reportedly at big odds over his appearance in Portland. Titan had nixed a previously planned guest shot for Don Owen, so Roddy is said to have just "shown up" for the angle vs. Scotty the Body. This could get interesting.

TAG TEAM UPDATE: ABC will be the first to announce its fall lineup May 21 and late reports are if TAG TEAM does not go Saturday at 8 it will either be held for midseason or not go at all. ABC is in great shape demographically and Saturday is the only night where the whole evening is vulnerable.

TINY TIM: The crowd at the latest GEORGIA ALL-STAR taping really got into Tim Dix's fits. He came out as a trial manager after "blowing up" over being bumped to ring announcer. His wrestler fired him and Dix threw a classic tantrum.

OTHERS TO PW'90: Faces to watch for PW'90...the Royal Family is interested in working dates for Joe Pedicino.

ON PROBATION: Shotgun Tony Gage (Tony Zane) is on temporary suspension for a month from PW'90 for what has been described as a "conduct problem."

NEW LINEUP: Atlanta's WVEU-TV SUPERSTARS OF WRESTLING block is being altered slightly. Grizzly Smith's 5-STAR WRESTLING is being added at 1 a.m. with ICW and Memphis-only matches from the CWA syndie show to follow.

CHARLESTON CLASHING: The June CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS XI on TBS will be live from The Citadel in Charleston, S.C., and don't be surprised to see the NWA wrestlers hook up for a special called RUMBLE FOR THE RAINFOREST, a project which has been postponed a couple of times.

BACK ON CABLE: FNN's SCORE service is about to revert back to full sports programming but how wrestling figures is uncertain. And HOME SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT is looking for a new wrestling show to replace one of its weaker ones.

IN MEMORIAM: Our sympathies go to the Guererro Brothers on the death of their father, Gory, who died April 19. He was a one-time partner of the original Santo and Red Bastien called him "one of the toughest ever in the ring."

PICO PICO: The Latin American Wrestling Association drew about 300 for an April 22 show in Pico Rivera CA. Toplining was a 6-man with Conan/Mil Mascaras/Super Astro defeating La Migra I & II/Great Goliath 2-3 falls.

LPWA LATEST: The women's group has added a KEN'S KORNER seg to its weekly shows and expect Boni Blackstone to have an expanded role. A deal, however, for LPWA to go on Gannett stations in Atlanta and Minneapolis this fall has apparently fallen through. Expect Boni Blackstone's role to expand.

BEHIND THE BIFOCALS: One of the funnier shots in the latest issue of Japan's GONG Magazine is a shot of Vince McMahon in bifocals giving directions to Jushin Riger.

MATWATCH

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THE MARCH-APRIL STORY

The Nielsen report for March and April shows a mixed trend for both the NWA and WWF on cable with Turner on a downward trend since blockbuster February levels but up over year-ago figures. Titan is registering improving numbers for PRIME TIME but a drastic drop for ALL-AMERICAN, though April figures for the WWF series won't be available until next week.

Both NWA MAIN EVENT and WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING scored two-year average highs of 3.7 ratings in February. NME tumbled 11% in March, though still posting a respectable 3.3 while WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP dipped to a still-strong 3.2.

But April averages show both weekly series falling under a 3. However, the trend may be seasonal as average shares have stayed fairly steady, though WCW's share fell 6%. Despite the dip, both shows posted April gains over last year with WCW jumping 26% over last year's schedule-jumping ratings and NME up 8%.

TBS appears to be happy with its POWER HOUR numbers, which have averaged over a 2 for the fourth straight month. PH equaled its March numbers last month with a 2.1, considered strong for Friday night, and just below the 2.2 in February.

On the WWF side, PRIME TIME WRESTLING appears to be making its springtime turn upward as network Monday shows revert to reruns, weakening the competition. PTW increased to a 3.3 in March, jumping 8% in share to a strong 5.1. But year-to-year, PRIME TIME was down 8%.

But ALL-AMERICAN, which registered a strong rally in February, fell 19% to 2.5 in March and is expected to show an even further drop when April Titan figures are released. The Titan show is also down 19% from March 1989.

The figures:

NWA CABLE SHOWS	April '90	April '89	March '90	March '89
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP	2.9/6.3	2.3/4.4	3.2/6.7	2.6/4.7
MAIN EVENT	2.8/6.4	2.6/5.6	3.3/6.5	3.1/5.9
POWER HOUR	2.1/3.7	N/A	2.1/3.6	N/A
POWER HOUR (Replay)	1.0/8.3	N/A	1.1/8.5	N/A

WWF CABLE SHOWS	March '90	March '89	Feb. '90
PRIME TIME WRESTLING	3.3/5.1	3.6/5.3	3.2/4.7
ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING	2.5/7.0	3.1/8.2	3.1/8.0

RATINGS RAP

PRIME TIME SURGES STRONGLY

TO TOP OF CABLE HEAP

Though the overall match lineup was marginal, PRIME TIME WRESTLING, bolstered by a heavily-rerun night of competition from the major networks, powered to a strong lead in the weekly Nielsen cable ratings for the week ending April 23.

PRIME TIME's 3.5 rating and 5.7 share was up only slightly from the week before but NWA shows all dipped under a 3 for the first time in several weeks.

NWA MAIN EVENT with the DOOM-Road Warriors finish topped the Turner shows with a 2.7/6.7 but WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP was down 21% from the previous week.

How much effect the double showing of POWER HOUR Friday night affected its 10:15 p.m. scheduled slot is uncertain but the two airings together attracted 1.6 million viewers. PH had an unscheduled 9 p.m. airing when the Braves-Reds game was rained out.

ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING continues to be a problem note for the WWF. AAW dropped to a season low of 2.0 April 22, dipping perilously close to the under 1-million homes mark.

In syndication, the WWF maintained its usual margin, topping the NWA 8.6 to 7.0 but for the week immediately after WRESTLEMANIA 6, the numbers were down two full points from last year's Titan editions.

CABLE

Week Ending April 23	Rating	Share	Total Homes
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 4/23)	3.5	5.7	1.82 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 4/22)	2.7	6.7	1.46 million
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 4/21)	2.6	6.3	1.4 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 4/22)	2.0	6.5	1.04 million
NWA POWER HOUR/10:15 (TBS 4/20)	1.9	3.5	1.03 million
NWA GREATEST HITS (TBS 4/20)	1.4	2.5	756,000
NWA POWER HOUR/9:00 (TBS 4/20)	1.1	2.1	594,000
NWA POWER HOUR/Sat. 7am (TBS 4/21)	0.8	6.9	432,000

SYNDICATION

Week Ending April 9	Rating/Sta.	Last Week	Year-to-Date
WWF	8.6/254	9.1/252	9.5
NWA	7.0/175	6.0/173	7.4

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